



Up Front

Gettin' outta Dodge, bringin' in gravy.

By C.J. Hadley

I don't get out much, but I did vote. Since I became a citizen in 1972, I always vote. Wish I knew the outcome of the midterm elections but we went to press weeks ahead of that. It takes a long time and about a thousand parts to gather and produce an issue of *RANGE*. I love the work but sometimes it kicks more butt than I have, so I took two red-meat days off to fly to Billings, Mont., for some therapeutic long-range firing of superb rifles owned by Darrell Holland. He stars on page 86 thanks to the talented hill-billy and *RANGE* contributor Alan Hart, who lives in Appalachia but stretches out to Montana and Wyoming whenever he can find enough Let's Go Brandon gas money and tolerate another 4,000-mile drive.

Also there was *RANGE*'s Wandering Scout, the formidable Dave Skinner, who is playing out his bucket list. We are working on a Scout book to share his remarkable record in *RANGE* which followed stints as a steam train driver, motorcycle racer, heavy-equipment operator, carpenter and serious skier but always as a big-time questioner of the greedy and corrupt.

Time out on Holland's ranges was superb, good gravy, and a release from strain due to increased costs of paper, ink, shipping, mailing, and even more paperwork demanded by government officials. I took to guns to get away from our too-often-lawless society and a government and Big Tech constantly adding restrictions to living and working while surveilling our every move. Some thought I was practicing out there in eastern Montana and I even temporarily forgot being more than 10,000 emails behind.

I was traveling incognito but as soon as those three boys picked me up at the airport we lunched at The Cracker Barrel and in less

than a minute a handsome young cowboy came up and asked, "Are you CJ?" He wanted me to know that he loved *RANGE*. A few minutes later, a big Basco from Riverton, Wyo., in town for a ram sale—Pierre Gaston Carricaburu, aka Doctor Pete—told me he had all our back issues, was an M.D. and a sheep rancher and helping the young cowboy learn more about ranching. (See page 73.)

Good news came a week after "the vacation" in late September when *RANGE* writers and photographers put more feathers in our wide-brims by winning journalism prizes via Nevada Press Foundation's "2022 Better Newspaper and Magazine Awards."

Judged by Arizona Press Association, here are the winners (also found at rangefire.us):

1st place, "Outstanding Visual Journalist," Todd Klassy. Judge said: "Klassy showcased his tremendous eye for detail, creativity and use of lighting and color. His work tells a story."

1st place, "Explanatory Journalism," Carolyn Dufur-rena for "Ill Wind in Cherry County" (Spring 2022). Judge said, "Thoughtful and descriptive with compelling photography."

1st place, "Portrait," Danielle Coon for "Under the Big Sky" photo of border collie and boots (Summer 2021 cover). Judge said: "Crisp and clean photo, good balance, vivid color. Very nice shot."

1st place, "Page One, Cover Design," John Bardwell for Summer 2021, Fall 2021, Winter 2021/2022 and Spring 2022.

1st place, "Local Column," yours truly for "Up Front." Judge said, "Each column is a conversation starter."

2nd place, "Feature Writing," Marjorie Haun for "A Cowgirl's Vision" (Winter 2022).

2nd place, "Feature Photo," Larry Angier for "The Caldor Fire" (Winter 2022).

2nd place, "Portrait," Robb Kendrick for "Texas Cowpunchers" (Spring 2022). Judge said: "Good composition, cropped well for magazine cover, slight out of focus feel makes it look like an old-time photo. Very nice touch."

3rd place, "Best Feature Photo," David Muench for "Balsamroot" (Summer 2021).

3rd place, "General Online Excellence," Marjorie Haun, social media guru.

Perfect gravy on the steak. ■

